

### Finding the latitude and longitude for a point of interest

Finding the latitude and longitude for a point is usually straightforward, but it can be complicated sometimes. The easiest technique will be used here. Other methods will be given on page 6.

Fairly often, you can find a point's latitude and longitude by simply asking for them. This information is frequently published for important buildings such as cathedrals. For instance, if you wanted to find the distance between Manchester Cathedral and York Minster, you would first do an online search for the latitude and longitude of each church. A search using the keywords "manchester cathedral latitude longitude" creates a list of possibilities, one of which says "Latitude: 53.4851207814, Longitude: -2.24423106866". A second search using the keywords "yorkminster latitude longitude" creates a similar list, one item of which shows "Latitude/Longitude: 53.9623, -1.0821". Note that the numbers are in decimal form, rather than in degree-minute-second form. The decimal form is easier to use. If your browser list includes numbers in degree-minute-second form, bypass them and keep looking. Note also that some of the numbers include minus (-) signs. If minus signs (-) are given, you must ALWAYS include them when copying and pasting the numbers. They are essential for calculating the distance between the two end points of a line on the earth's surface. In this case, the line lies between Manchester cathedral and York Minster.

Copy these numbers, including minus (-) signs. Then open a word processing document and paste these numbers into it. The word processing document is a log file. Your log file might look like this:

	<b>Latitude</b>	<b>Longitude</b>
Manchester Cathedral	53.4851207814	-2.24423106866
York Minster	53.9623	-1.0821

Your log file could also look like this:

	<b>Latitude,Longitude</b>
Manchester Cathedral	53.4851207814,-2.24423106866
York Minster	53.9623,-1.0821

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